

Safety On The Road

Change Lanes With Caution

Never force your way in when entering a moving line of traffic.

Safe lane changes are a vital skill for drivers. Many serious accidents occur when drivers switch lanes without regard to other traffic or road conditions.

Careless passing of other vehicles, squeezing or shutting out other drivers and weaving from lane to lane are dangerous practices.

Here are some reminders about safety in lane changes:

- Keep lane changes to a minimum. Drive in a straight line and stay right except to pass. Slow traffic should travel in the right lane.
- Other drivers have the right of way to move in a straight line without interference. Never force your way in when entering a moving line of traffic.
- Lane changing in heavy traffic seldom saves time, but it can cause accidents.
- Weaving from lane to lane, or within one lane, is a dangerous practice.
- Always signal your intention before you change lanes and during the lane change. Remember to signal when returning to your original lane after passing.
- Check your rearview and side mirrors before making a lane change. Also do an over-the-shoulder visual check. Be aware of vehicles in the blind spots.
- When entering or exiting a freeway, do so with a minimum of lane changes. Adjust your speed to merge with the traffic so other drivers do not have to swerve around you.
- Exercise caution in changing lanes or pulling around temporary obstructions in the road. These blockages can include road repairs, broken down vehicles or public transit buses stopped for passengers.
- When approaching lane closures because of construction or traffic accidents, use extreme caution. Make the change well before the lane ends, and help other drivers to merge smoothly. Be ready for rough road surfaces and abrupt pavement edges in construction areas. Obey the posted speed signs.
- If you see another driver making excessive lane changes, keep your distance. The driver could be drunk or drugged, or could be expressing his anger behind the wheel.
- Two-lane highways, particularly in mountainous areas, have extra lanes every few miles to allow faster traffic to pass slow-moving vehicles. Don't block the fast lane – pull aside and let others get around you.

Try to pick the correct lane and stick with it. Excessive lane-changing can lead to accidents.

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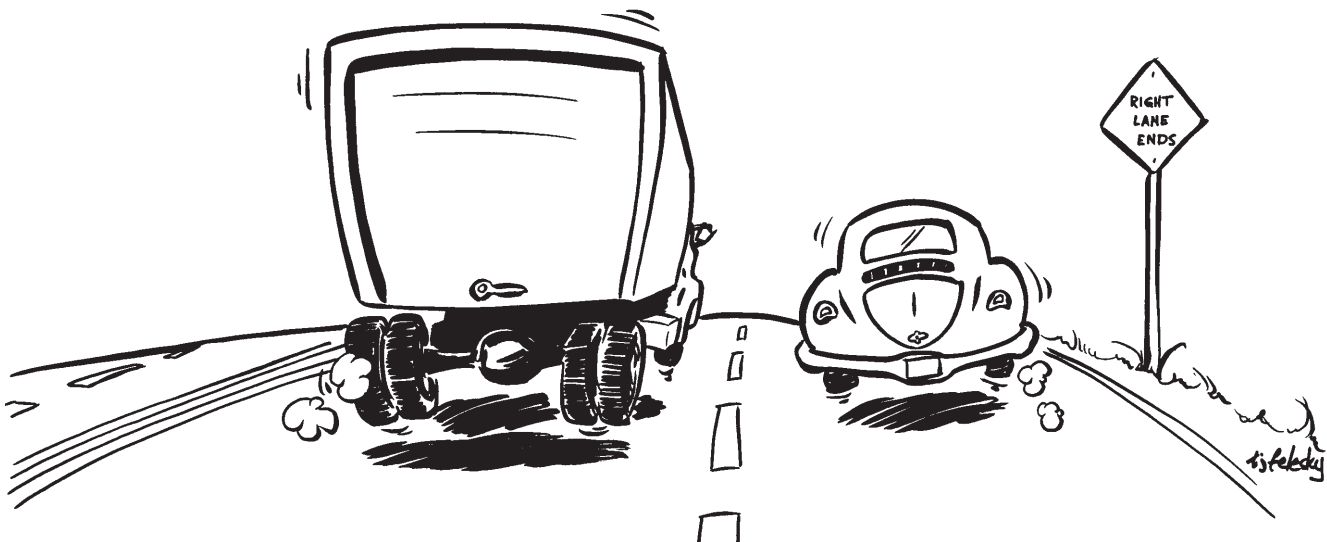
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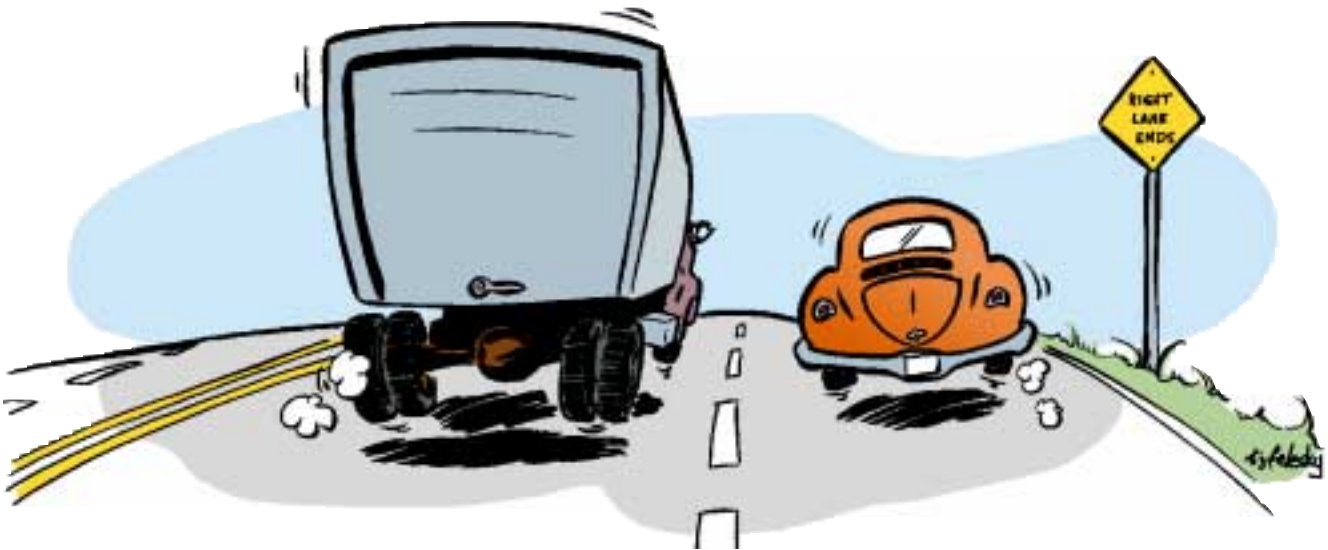
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